

# **Emmell's Septic Landfill**

**128 Zurich Avenue Galloway Township Atlantic County**

**BLOCK: 650 LOTS: 7 & 9**

**Community Relations Coordinator: Amanda Coombs (609) 341-3118**

## **SITE DESCRIPTION/RESOLUTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:**

This site operated as a septic and sewage sludge disposal facility between 1967 to 1979. During this time, waste sludges were deposited in on-site trenches and lagoons. Solid and chemical wastes were also disposed of at the site, including construction debris, gas cylinders, household garbage and drums, some of which contained paint sludges. Sampling of private potable wells at nearby residences between 1984 and 1988 revealed the presence of various volatile organic compounds above New Jersey Drinking Water Standards. The Atlantic County Health Department subsequently closed the contaminated wells and drilled deeper replacement wells at the residences. A preliminary assessment and site investigation completed by NJDEP in 1997 identified Emmell's Septic Landfill as the likely source of the potable well contamination. In 1998, USEPA completed a Site Activity Investigation at the landfill. The results of sampling conducted during the Site Activity Investigation indicated the soil and ground water were contaminated with volatile organic compounds and confirmed the presence of waste materials (paints, charred materials and sludges) in the subsurface soil. USEPA added Emmell's Septic Landfill to the National Priorities List of Superfund sites (NPL) in 1999. In 2000, USEPA completed a removal action to address materials that may have been serving as a source of ground water contamination. During the removal action, 438 buried drums and over 28,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil were excavated and disposed of at an off-site facility. USEPA is conducting a Remedial Investigation (RI) to determine the nature and extent of the contamination remaining at the facility, as well as a Focused Feasibility Study (FFS) to evaluate whether the contaminated ground water should be treated while the RI work is underway.